

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel previous claims 22, 23, and 27, and amend claims 21, 26, 28, 29, and 30 to read as follows:

C<sup>1</sup> 21 (Amended). A candle comprising, in combination, a fuel element comprising a solid fuel selected from the group consisting of gels and solid waxes, a consumable wick at which said fuel may be burned to produce heat, a heat conductive container for said fuel element whereby said heat may be transported so as to melt said solid fuel, wherein said container is a concave melting plate configured so as to cause the flow of melted fuel to said wick, and said heat conductive container further comprises a heat conductive element selected from the group consisting of lobes and wick holders with fins, by which heat is conducted to said container from a flame upon said wick.

C<sup>2</sup> 26 (Amended). A melting plate candle comprising, in combination, a meltable solid fuel selected from the group consisting of gels and solid waxes, a consumable wick, a heat conductive concave melting plate upon which said fuel rests and which comprises a heat conductive element, selected from the group consisting of lobes and wick holders with fins, by which heat is conducted to said melting plate from a flame upon said wick, whereby a pool of heated liquid fuel is created, wherein said concave melting plate is configured so as to cause the flow of said heated liquid fuel to said wick for combustion, and said plate and said element are configured so as to cooperatively engage said fuel.

C<sup>3</sup> 28 (Amended). The candle of Claim 26, wherein said heat conductive element is a lobe.

29 (Amended). The candle of Claim 26, wherein said heat conductive element is a wick holder with fins.

30 (Amended). A melting plate candle comprising a replaceable fuel element and consumable wick, a fuel holder comprising a heat conductive melting plate comprising at least one heat conductive element to collect heat from a flame at said wick and conduct said heat to said melting plate to thereby melt said fuel and form a pool of liquid fuel on the surface of said melting plate, wherein said fuel holder is configured to position and engage said fuel on said melting plate for rapid melting, said heat conductive elements are selected from the group consisting of lobes and wick holders with fins, said melting plate is shaped so as to cause said pool of liquid fuel to flow to said wick, and the temperature of said pool of liquid fuel exceeds a temperature of about 180° F. at a point about 10 mm from said wick, and about 160° F at a point about 20 mm from said wick.